



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### CIRCULAR: V11 of 2024

**To: All State Veterinarians  
All State Veterinary Offices  
Farmers and Farmers Unions**

### **PROTOCOL FOR THE MOVEMENT OF SMALL STOCK (SHEEP AND GOATS) FROM THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PROTECTION ZONE TO AREAS SOUTH OF THE VETERINARY CORDON FENCE/FMD FREE ZONE**

*This circular repeals circular V28 of 2003 and also the wrongly issued earlier versions of this circular: V7 & 8 of 2024.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Following the occurrence of the 2015 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the FMD Protection zone and later by the recognition of Namibia's Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) freedom by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) in areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF), it was decided to review Circular V28 of 2003 to ensure that small stock moving to the south of the VCF do not pose FMD and PPR risks to the south of VCF.

In line with the Animal Health Act (Act 1 of 2011), movement of sheep and goats from the FMD Protection Zone to the FMD Free Zone or areas South of the VCF, may be allowed subject to the control measures set by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

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This Circular gives guidance to animal owners and officials of the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) on animal health control measures to be implemented when moving sheep and goats from the north to the south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

In line with the Animal Health Regulations: Animal Health Act, 2011, some key words used in this circular are defined as follows:

***Veterinary Cordon Fence*** - a fence that runs westwards from the Namibia-Botswana border, separating the Foot and Mouth Disease Protection Zone from the Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone;

***The FMD Protection Zone*** - composed of the whole area west of the Shamangorwa Fence but north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, including parts of Kavango East, Kavango West, part of Kunene which is north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, Ohangwena, part of Oshikoto which is north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, Oshana and Omusati regions.

***The FMD Free Zone*** - composed of the whole area which is south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

**1. CONTROL MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED NORTH OF THE VETERINARY CORDON FENCE**


- 1.1 Before the small stock are moved to the free zone, they must first be quarantined for a minimum period of 30 days in a DVS approved and supervised quarantine facility\*\* north of the VCF.
- 1.2 Small stock destined for quarantine should not originate from areas under veterinary restrictions for FMD, PPR and any other infectious disease or condition to which the species are susceptible.
- 1.3 All Sheep and Goats intended to be moved south of the VCF must be individually identified with official ear tags while at the place of origin (at the owner's cost) and ear tags must be captured in the Namibia's Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS) at least 30 days before they depart for the quarantine facility north of VCF.
- 1.4 Application for the intention to move small stock south of the VCF must be made at the responsible state veterinary office north of VCF at least 30 days prior to movement of the animals to the quarantine facility.
- 1.5 In case animals are to undergo further quarantining on a farm south of VCF for 90 days, the quarantining farm must first be approval by a responsible DVS office and such approval be obtained before animals can be moved to the quarantine facility north of the VCF.
- 1.6 Animals must be moved to the quarantine facility with a valid and fully endorsed NamLITS generated movement permit.
- 1.7 All animals must be treated against internal and external parasites within 3 - 7 days before departure to the quarantine and must be visibly free from external parasites on the day of arrival at the quarantine and on the day of shipment south of the VCF. The withdrawal period of the used remedies especially for animals intended for direct slaughter must be observed. Empty containers of used remedies must be kept as evidence and be presented to DVS officials during inspection.

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- 1.8 DVS officials at origin to inspect the animals for signs of diseases within 72 hours prior to departure to the quarantine.
  - 1.9 All animals must be inspected for any signs of disease at the quarantine on day 1, 15 and 30 as follows:
    - a) Animals are passed through and/ or held in a small stock - crush or a small holding pen where they are closely inspected for signs of diseases;
    - b) Animals found to show any signs of diseases are properly handled and examined more closely including mouthing and hoof inspection.
  - 1.10 While in a quarantine, all animals must be subjected to diagnostic virological or serological tests for evidence of FMD Virus with negative results on samples collected not earlier than 28 days after the start of quarantine period;
  - 1.11 A random sample of not less than 40 animals must be systematically collected from each kraal if different groups / herds are kept separately in the quarantine facility and test negative against PPR antibodies. Animals that show signs of PPR such as oral lesions, discharges from eyes and nose, respiratory signs, foul- smelling diarrhoea etc, must be targeted for sampling. Samples should be collected by DVS officials not earlier than 28 days after the start of quarantine period;
  - 1.12 In case of positive results to FMD or PPR tests, appropriate investigation measures should be instituted to establish the existence and extend of the infection. The outcome of the investigation will inform further actions to be taken.
  - 1.13 Should an outbreak of FMD, PPR or any other infectious disease to which sheep and goats are susceptible occur in the Protection zone or South of the VCF while animals are in the quarantine facility, further actions will be determined by the Chief Veterinary Officer.
  - 1.14 DVS officials may direct a special official permanent mark such as an ear tattoo or any other DVS approved permanent mark to be put on the animals at the owner's cost before they leave the quarantine facility north of the VCF.
  - 1.15 After a successful completion of a quarantine period north of the VCF:
    - a) All small stock moving south of the VCF must be transported under-cover of a red-cross permit, under the supervision of DVS in vehicles and trailers which are cleaned and disinfected before loading;
    - b) Animals are directly transported from the quarantine to the slaughterhouse/abattoir without coming into contact with other susceptible animals;
    - c) The seals on vehicles/trailers must only be broken and animals offloaded under DVS supervision at the destination south of the VCF.
  - 1.16 The State Veterinarian responsible for the quarantine facility north of VCF must timely notify his or her counterpart at the destination south of the VCF about the departure and estimated arrival times of the animals.
  - 1.17 State Veterinarians both in the North and South of the VCF must strictly keep dedicated files for record keeping of all quarantine activities and animal movements.
- 2. CONTROL MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED SOUTH OF THE VETERINARY CORDON FENCE**
- 2.1 Animals destined for direct slaughter at local abattoirs\*\*\* south of the VCF must only be slaughtered at abattoirs that are registered under the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN).
  - 2.2 Animals destined for direct slaughter at a local abattoir south of the VCF must be slaughtered within 72 hours upon their arrival at the abattoir. The State Veterinarian at the receiving abattoir or district State

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- 2.3 Veterinarian must ensure that all animals have been slaughtered within the prescribed time period. Abattoirs should not book animals in numbers exceeding their slaughter capacities.
- 2.4 Should animals meant for direct slaughter not be able to be slaughtered within 72 hours:
- Abattoir operators or whoever is responsible for the animals must timely inform the responsible State Veterinarian;
  - Under the supervision of the State Veterinarian, the animals must be sent to another local abattoir where they will be slaughtered within 72 hours upon arrival;
  - If at the second abattoir animals can still not be slaughtered within 72 hours, they must be sent to an establishment that meets the requirements for quarantining small stock originating from north of the VCF where they will be quarantined for 90 days;
- 2.4 Small stock destined for export abattoirs or for breeding purposes south of the VCF must be quarantined at destination (south of VCF) which could be in a DVS controlled government quarantine or on owner's farm for 90 days to meet residency requirement as per European Union's regulations and other trading partners.
- 2.5 If animals destined for slaughter at export abattoirs or for breeding purposes are to be quarantined on the farm south of the VCF, it must be in a double fenced quarantine camp approved by DVS or the entire farm must be quarantined for 90 days with the small stock restricted to an inside camp.



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Dr Johannes Shoopala  
**ACTING CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER**



\*\*DVS approved and supervised quarantine facility means a government, community quarantine, or any private establishment approved and supervised by DVS for the purposes of quarantining small stock.

\*\*\*Local abattoirs – For the purposes of this circular, are abattoirs registered under LLPBN.

*The previous Circular V10 of 2024 dealt FMD Surveillance along the Namibia / South African Borders.*